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The full story of Software Bill of Materials

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Agenda



- DevOps SBoM motivation
- SBoM history
- SBoM - Use Case categories
- General SBoM considerations
- Lessons learned

Motivation



- Will be an external requirement - US & EU
- Should have been an internal requirement since the 1980's
- Dev are the optimal producers of SBoMs
- Ops and Dev are heavy users of SBoMs
- SBoMs needed for all systems in environment (know what you have)
- If you know what you have, then change control (and cyber security) is easier
- An SBoM tells you what to roll back to
- How you can use/exploit SBoM - the full story

These are examples of SBoMs



zoom

Version: 5.13.7 (15481)

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Update Available

New version 5.13.10.16307 is available. You have 5.13.7 (15481).

Release notes of 5.13.10 (16307)

Changes to existing features

- Breakout Rooms 100 enabled for all accounts

General features

- Activity Center

- Zoom Network Connectivity Tool

- Additional MSI/PLIST/GPO/MDM options

- Allow users to access Network Diagnostics Tool

- Set IP address for Zoom Mesh local detection

- Set network port for Zoom Mesh nodes

- Set network port range for Zoom Mesh parent-child node communication

- Allow external participants to connect via Zoom Mesh

Meeting/webinar features

- On-demand watermark

- Custom watermark location

SBoM anno 2020s

- Executive Order 14028 signed in 2021
- Strengthen the US' ability to respond quickly and efficiently to cybersecurity vulnerabilities
 - Heartbleed, Solarwind, Colonial Pipeline hack
- US Department of Commerce and NTIA
 - The Minimum Elements For a Software Bill of Materials
 - “List of ingredients” with focus on vulnerability scans



Fast rewind - Back to the future



SBoM anno 1980s - part I



Wayne Babich: “Many times the fastest approach to finding a bug is not analysis of the program itself, but analysis of the *history* of the program – how it was created. The history of the program is called its *derivation*.”

A precise *derivation* of a program or module requires:

- an identification of the *tool* that created it
- an identification of the data that was *input* to the tool
- an identification of the *options* and *arguments* given to the tool
- the *reason* why that particular data, arguments, and options were given to the tool
- the *person* who was responsible for creating the data
- the *date* and *time*

An ounce of derivation is worth a pound of analysis!

Back to the future II



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SBoM anno 1980s - part II



- Clearmake automatically create SBoMs called Configuration Records
- Re-use build artifacts like object files in a smart and secure way
- Configuration Record contains information about input files, build environment and output files
- Configuration records can be read and used by machines and audited manually by developers

Overview - Types SBoM categories



- **Bo-Materials**
 - Search for object by UID
- **Bo-Process**
 - Reuse
 - Debugging
 - Rebuild
 - Build audit
- **Bo-Information**
 - Licence tracking
 - Export control
 - Legal aspects
 - Test-related matters
 - Information sharing

BoM use case category



Search for an object by UID

Software Composition Analysis (SCA):

- Are features 12, 15 and 19 included in this binary for QA?
- We get a new (binary) patch - is it already in there?
- What is “operating” on our systems (Ops)

Logon module - source code ver. 2.1 (compiled on several occasions)

SBoM = BoM

BoP use case category



Reproducibility - or producibility - is a core concept for configuration management

For that we need the exact source code - obviously...

But that is not sufficient:

- Escrow development
- Fixing a bug in a 13-year old petro-chemical installation

To the degree of what you consider “identical” we must include the process:

- Tools, versions, options, environments, ...

SBoM = BoM + **BoP**

BoI use case category



Information about the artifacts in the SBoM needed for communication, audits, certifications, ...

Test related matters:

- In case a program or system can affect human safety, test information can be vital to keep in an SBoM
 - Test cases, test results, test environments (HW and SW), ...
- Possible need to provide proof that test cases have been performed in a legal dispute
- Test information can also be used as a “quality stamp”
 - Our software passes these test and therefore complies to regulation X $SBoM = BoM + BoP + \mathbf{BoI}$

Specific attack example - thanks to Giulio Vian



An internal agent replaces the source code or a tool that is used for producing the build with something malicious.

We must have UUIDs not just for binary, but also source code and tools - and...

Can we trust our (internal) UUIDs?

SBoMs can facilitate “build paranoia” - allows two different entities to use the SBoM to create the binary and compare the result.

SBoM may not be 100% bullet proof cyber security, but they can be part of the solution.

<https://reproducible-builds.org>

SBoM considerations - part I



- Detail of SBoM:
 - what data is needed?
 - washing/hiding/filtering info that you are not allowed to reveal
 - representation format
- Availability of SBoM
 - “Document” (man and machine readable)
 - “Query” (internal/external)
- Automation - both in creation and using
- Static and dynamic data

SBoM considerations - part II



- Keeping the SBoM up to date:
 - when I patch Firefox or Windows
 - build- , instal- and run-time parameterization/configuration
- SBoM for tools and environments too - and Everything
- SBoM and the Cloud
 - version of compiler?
 - SBoM for cloud services (and microservices)?

Key takeaways



- DevOps as **consumers**:
 - List of ingredients & Vulnerability scan
 - 100s of use cases, 10+ categories, 3 types
- DevOps as **producers**:
 - “Builders” of a binary are at the origin of (most) SBoM data
 - Automation is at the heart of DevOps
- Doesn't it look a little like:
 - Configuration Items (attributes and relations)
 - Configuration Status Accounting

SBoM = BoM + BoP + BoI

Q&A



https://fileadmin.cs.lth.se/cs/Personal/Lars_Bendix/Research/SBoM/

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